

## **September 4, 2007 Agenda/Summary BTF 2008 Vision Summit Committee CC**

The 2008 Vision Summit Committee held its first conference call on September 4, 2007 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The participants in the call were: Steven Berman, Mike Merrick, Patti Schonlau, Susan Ford, Ella Wolfe, Aundrayah Shermer, Chip Hailey, Donna Borgmeyer, and Jacob Wilson. Michael Evans and Bradley Hart were not available for the conference call.

Following is a brief summary of the discussion during this initial conference call:

### **1. Time and Location of 2008 Summit**

The committee decided that the first week in April 2008 would be a good window for the Summit. We tried to take into consideration the Power-Up Conference, MAP Testing windows, and Spring Breaks. The Committee felt that the preference would be for a Thursday/Friday combination. The second preference would be any combination of two days during that first week of April. Mike Merrick will obtain some bids for hotels in the Jefferson City/Columbia area. The Summit has been at the Capitol Plaza in Jefferson City for the last several years. The consensus was that we would like to continue with the Capitol Plaza if possible.

### **2. Theme of 2008 Summit**

Initial thoughts about the theme of the Summit were discussed by various people. While we need to continue with some basic topics such as Low Vision, Braille and Transition, there seemed to be a consensus that having a central theme revolving around Instruction in Mathematics might provide for an interesting Summit. Along those lines, Aundrayah Shermer will attempt to contact Dr. Susan Osterhaus from Texas School for the Blind to check about her possible availability for the Summit. Dr. Osterhaus is a leading expert in the area of Math Instruction for the Visually Impaired. Suggested topics for the Math theme include abacus instruction, Nemeth Code, Tactile graphics, and use of technology to do math. Susan Ford suggested that we contact David Wallers, a chemistry professor at Truman State University. Ms. Ford said that she would attempt to contact him.

### **3. Funding of 2008 Summit**

Various issues relating to the funding of the Summit were discussed. RSB will contribute \$7,500 for the Summit and Missouri Council for the Blind and National Federation for the Blind will also most likely contribute some funds. Alpha Pointe will be contacted to see if they would provide funds for one of the meals as they did last year. Mike Merrick will contact Alpha Pointe and Steve Berman will contact John Thompson at Lighthouse for the Blind to see if they would contribute some funds for the Summit. The issue of funding will be an on-going discussion.

### **4. Low-Vision Presentation**

Steve Berman will contact Dr. Porter to see about his availability for the Summit. His Low-Vision presentations have been a staple at the last few Summits.

### **5. Upcoming 2008 Vision Summit Conference Call**

The next conference call will be on September 27, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. Each committee member will continue to think of ideas as to funding, presentations, exhibitors, hotel arrangements, etc.

Submitted by: Steven Berman, Chairperson  
Vision Summit 2008 Committee  
September 10, 2007